

Message Text

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64

ACTION EA-09

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INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6700

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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USLO PEKING

UNCLAS TOKYO 1796

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR, JA, HK, UK

SUBJECT: JAPANESE POLICE ARREST CHINESE SPY SUSPECT

1. TOKYO METROPOLITAN POLICE ARE QUESTIONING A HK CHINESE SUSPECTED OF HAVING ATTEMPTED TO OBTAIN SECRET DOCUMENTS ON A ROLLS-ROYCE JET AIRCRAFT ENGINE. FOLLOWING IS JAPANETIMES FEB 4 REORT BASED ON POLICE SOURCES, FOR ADDRESSES INFORMATION:

2. BEGIN TEXT: THE METROPLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT (MPD) IS QUESTIONING A 54-YEAR-OLD CHINESE TRADER FROM HONG KONG ON HIS ALLEGED ATTEMPT LAST YEAR TO OBTAIN SECRET PAPERS IN JAPAN ON A ROLLS-ROYCE JET AIRCRAFT ENGINE.

3. THE MPD REVEALED MONDAY NIGHT IT WAS PROBING HIS BACKGROUND TO DETERMINE IF THE TRADER, WANG YANG-JAN, HAD ACTED AS AN AGENT FOR SOME FOREIGN COUNTRY.

4. WANG, PRESIDENT OF A HONG KONG- BASED TRADING HOUSE, WAS ARRESTED HERE ON JAN 26 ON A CHARGE OF VIOLATING THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND FOREIGN TRADE
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CONTROL LAW BY RENTING TWO APARTMENTS HE OWNS IN

TOKYO TO JAPANESE TENANTS WITHOUT FOREIGN MINISTRY APPROVAL.

5. ACCORDING TO THE PD, LAST APRIL HE ATTEMPTED, WITH THE HELP OF A JAPANESE COLLABORATOR, TO OBTAIN CLASSIFIED PAPERS CONCERNING AN AIR SELF-DEFENSE FORCE T-2 SUPERSONIC TRAINING JET ENGINE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTRY (MITI) AND ISHIKAWAJIMA-HARIMA HEAVY INDUSTRIES (IHI).

6. THE TIMING OF THE ATTEMPT ALMOST COINCIDED WITH THE START OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN CHINA AND ROLLS-ROYCE FOR PRODUCTION OF THE FIRMS JET ENGINES IN CHINA.

7. WANG'S COLLABORATOR, A TOKYO TRADER IDENTIFIED ONLY AS M, APPROACHED MITI OFFICIAL AND ASKED THEM TO SHOW HIM THE ORIGINAL CONTRACT AND RELATED DOCUMENTS CONCLUDED BETWEEN ROLLS-ROYCE AND IHI IN AUGUST 1970.

8. THE ORIGINAL CONTRACT HAS BEEN IN THE CUSTODY OF MITI, WHILE COPIES HAVE BEEN KEPT BY IHI.

9. THE MITI OFFICIALS REJECTED M'S REQUEST, TELLING HIM THE DOCUMENT WAS CLASSIFIED. M THEN ATTEMPTED TO OBTAIN THE COPY FROM IHI THROUGH HIS FRIENDS, BUT FAILED, THE MPD SAID.

10. WANG MADE 23 VISITS TO JAPAN BETWEEN 1972 AND 1975 TO BUY FABRICS, SECOND-HAND MACHINERY AND OTHER ITEMS HERE, ACCORDING TO THE MPD.

11. HE REPORTEDLY HAS PROPERTY VALUED AT SEVERAL HUNDRED MILLION IN JAPAN, INCLUDING APARTMENTS IN TOKYO AND ELSEWHERE.

12. A NATIVE OF SHANGHAI, HE MOVED TO HONG KONG WITH HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN AFTER THE CHINESE REVOLUTION. HE IS WELL-KNOWN AMONG JAPANESE TRADERS WHO DEAL WITH CHINA, ACCORDING TO THE MPD.
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QEM THE MPD SUSPECTS THAT M PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN WANG'S SUSPECTED INDUSTRIAL INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITY IN JAPAN.

14. BUT M DENIED IMPLICATION IN WANG'S ACTIVITY AND SAID HE ONLY BORROWED A ROOM OWNED BY WANG AND TRANSACTED MINOR BUSINESS WITH HIM.

15. SUSPECTING WANG'S MOVES IN JAPAN, THE MPD HAD BEEN WATCHING HIM AND HIS JAPANESE ASSOCIATES INCLUDING M SINCE JAPAN ESTABLISHED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CHINA IN 1971.

16. HE IS SUSPECTED TO HAVE OBTAINED MAPS IN JAPAN OF THE SINO-SOVIET BORDER AREAS, 29 REELS OF FILM ON THE FOURTH MIDDLE EAST WAR REPORTEDLY TAKEN BY THE US MILITARY AND SENT THEM TO HONG KONG, PLICE EXPLAINED.
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Disposition Authority: n/a
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